

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1379

To provide statutory authority and standards for the conduct of United States Government international broadcasting activities, to provide the President with flexibility in using international broadcasting resources to meet the foreign policy needs of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 1993

Mr. BERMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To provide statutory authority and standards for the conduct of United States Government international broadcasting activities, to provide the President with flexibility in using international broadcasting resources to meet the foreign policy needs of the United States, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “International Broad-
5 casting Act of 1993”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.**

2 The Congress makes the following findings and dec-
3 larations of policy:

4 (1) It is the policy of the United States to pro-
5 mote the freedom “to seek, receive and impart infor-
6 mation and ideas through any media and regardless
7 of frontiers”, in accordance with article 19 of the
8 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

9 (2) Open communication among the peoples of
10 the world is in the interests of the United States.

11 (3) It is in the interests of the United States
12 to support broadcasting to other nations consistent
13 with the requirements of this Act.

14 **SEC. 3. STANDARDS.**

15 International broadcasting supported by United
16 States Government funds shall—

17 (1) be consistent with the broad foreign policy
18 objectives of the United States;

19 (2) be consistent with the international tele-
20 communications policies and treaty obligations of the
21 United States;

22 (3) complement the activities of private United
23 States broadcasters;

24 (4) complement the activities of government
25 supported broadcasting entities of other democratic
26 nations;

1 (5) be conducted in accordance with the highest
2 professional standards of broadcast journalism;

3 (6) be based on reliable information about its
4 potential audience; and

5 (7) be designed so as to effectively reach a sig-
6 nificant audience.

7 **SEC. 4. FUNCTIONS.**

8 United States international broadcasting shall in-
9 clude—

10 (1) news which is consistently reliable and au-
11 thoritative, accurate, objective, and comprehensive;

12 (2) a balanced and comprehensive projection of
13 American thought and institutions, reflecting the di-
14 versity of American culture and society;

15 (3) clear and effective presentation of the poli-
16 cies of the United States Government and respon-
17 sible discussion and opinion on those policies;

18 (4) programming to meet needs which remain
19 unserved by the totality of media voices available to
20 the people of certain nations;

21 (5) a source of information about developments
22 in each significant region of the world;

23 (6) a forum for a variety of opinions and voices
24 from within particular nations and regions prevented

1 by censorship or repression from speaking to their
2 fellow countrymen;

3 (7) reliable research capacity to meet the cri-
4 teria under this section;

5 (8) adequate transmitter and relay capacity to
6 support the activities described in this section;

7 (9) a source of information about developments
8 in Asia and a forum for a variety of opinions and
9 voices from within Asian nations whose people do
10 not enjoy freedom of expression; and

11 (10) training and technical support for inde-
12 pendent indigenous media through government agen-
13 cies or private United States entities.

14 **SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION.**

15 (a) **AUTHORITY OF PRESIDENT.**—The President may
16 assign responsibility for any of the functions of United
17 States Government supported international broadcasting
18 under this Act to any agency of the United States Govern-
19 ment. The President may authorize any public or private
20 entity to carry out the functions described in paragraphs
21 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 of section 4(b).

22 (b) **GRANTS.**—The President and any agency of the
23 United States Government is authorized to make grants
24 to RFE/RL Incorporated or any other public or private
25 entity in order to carry out the functions of paragraphs

1 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 of section 4(b). In exercising oversight
2 responsibilities pursuant to any such grant, an agency
3 shall consider the necessity of maintaining the professional
4 independence and integrity of the grantee in carrying out
5 such functions.

6 **SEC. 6. USIA SATELLITE AND TELEVISION.**

7 The President is authorized to delegate any of the
8 authorities and duties under section 505 of the United
9 States Information and Educational Exchange Act of
10 1948 (22 U.S.C. 1464a) to any agency of the United
11 States Government.

12 **SEC. 7. REPEAL OF BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL BROAD-**
13 **CASTING ACT.**

14 The Board for International Broadcasting Act of
15 1973 (22 U.S.C. 2871 et seq.) is repealed.

16 **SEC. 8. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

17 (a) The Radio Broadcasting to Cuba Act (22
18 U.S.C. 1465) is amended by striking out sections 2
19 and 5.

20 (b) The Television Broadcasting to Cuba Act
21 (22 U.S.C. 1465aa) is amended by striking out sec-
22 tion 242.

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